CLAIMS

1. A method of diagnosing disease of bacterial or fungal origin in a subject, which method comprises the step of measuring the level of sTREM-1 in a biological sample obtained from said subject.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of measuring the level of sTREM-1 comprises the steps of:
(a) contacting said biological sample with a compound capable of binding sTREM-1;
(b) detecting the level of sTREM-1 present in the sample by observing the level of binding between said compound and sTREM-1.

3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2, comprising the further step of:
c) correlating the detected level of sTREM-1 with the presence or absence of disease of bacterial or fungal origin.

4. The method of claim 3 where said correlation is made by comparing the measured level of sTREM-1 in the sample with a mean level in a control population of individuals not having disease of bacterial or fungal origin, to indicate the presence or extent of disease of bacterial or fungal origin in the patient.

5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, further comprising the steps of measuring the level of sTREM-1 in a second or further sample from the patient, the first and second or further samples being obtained at different times; and comparing the levels in the samples to indicate the progression or remission of the disease of bacterial or fungal origin.

6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein said disease of

bacterial or fungal origin is pneumonia.

7. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein said disease of bacterial or fungal origin is sepsis.

8. The method of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of whole blood, blood serum, blood plasma, urine and bronchoalveolar lavage fluid.

9. The method of claim 6 wherein the sample is from bronchoalveolar lavage fluid.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the sample is from blood serum or blood plasma.

11. The method of any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein the sample is a human sample.

12. A compound capable of binding sTREM-1 for use in the diagnosis, prognosis, monitoring of the treatment of disease of bacterial or fungal origin.

13. Use of a compound capable of binding sTREM-1 in a method of diagnosis of disease of bacterial or fungal origin.

14. A method of identifying agonists or antagonists of sTREM-1 said method comprising comparing the level of binding in a sample containing said sTREM-1 and a compound capable of binding sTREM-1, in the presence and absence of a compound to be tested.

15. An agonist or antagonist of sTREM-1 identified according to the method

of claim 14.

16. A kit comprising at least one compound capable of binding sTREM-1 and reagents for detecting binding of said compound to sTREM-1 for use in the diagnosis of disease of bacterial or fungal origin

17. A kit comprising at least one compound capable of binding sTREM-1 and means for contacting said compound with a sample containing sTREM-1 for use in the diagnosis of disease of bacterial or fungal origin.

18. The method, compound, use or kit of any of the preceding claims wherein said compound specifically binds sTREM-1.

19. The method, compound, use or kit of any of the preceding claims wherein said compound capable of binding sTREM-1 is an antibody raised against all or part of the TREM-1 receptor.

20. In a method of screening a patient for presence or susceptibility to disease, comprising performing a plurality of diagnostic tests on a tissue sample from the patient for a plurality of diseases, the improvement wherein one of the diagnostic tests comprises measuring the level of sTREM-1.

21. A method, compound or kit for diagnosis, prognosis or monitoring the treatment of disease of bacterial or fungal origin substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying figures.

22. The method of any one of claims 1 to 11 wherein the level of sTREM-1 is measured by an immunochemical technique.

23. The method of any one of claims 1 to 11 comprising the additional step of measuring the level of TREM-1-Ligand is one or more biological samples obtained from said subject.